MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1881.

Amusements Today. Albey's Park T cate - Me her-in-Law. Matthee Aquari m - 1015 St. and Browley - Catines. Files Opera | cons-Offsett | Marines. Death's Fresher-Two Orphans | Marines. 1 . okip . Park Torafee-Broams. Mettner Emmest's hose me-Breadway and Start, Pt 1978 the ater-The Passing Sectment Matines Louis Ope - France-Milles Matines Globe Dim- Nuseu . - 298 Boxery. h aver y's V to o's forget a - to Voyege en Stille.

I work is 18th St. Theat - - Kil. Marine.

Haverly's Sth Av. Theater-Camille. Marines. av riy's threater, trook yn-lly l'artner. Matine He Ison Square Themte: Emersida Matthes Statement Templ - Little Red Riving Head New The tre Consigne - The Rajor Matthes Navelty Theatre, Brookly - Humpty Dompty. Matter San Francisco Minet els-Browless and Pithes Matines Standard Theatre-Patience Estines. The lin Theatre-The Haunte | Casile - Matines Tony Postur's I and a Variety, Matinee. Th Centro-Patience Metines. Volum Square Theotre-The Lights of London. W m apr Theatre-Enknown. Matin a Worth's Man un-101 Bowers.

Advertising Bates. DARLY AND SUNDAY 40 cents a line, ordinary advertising \$2.50, according to classification. WEERLY -50 cents a line; no extra charge for type. Preferred positions from 73 cents to \$2.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for th ereek ending Dec. 24. 1881, was: 186,833 Westiv ... 181,846 Phursday ... 1.19,237 Priday ... 181,876 Saturnay ...

The Republicans Beginning Very Badly.

The manner in which the committees of the House are made need not surprise those who have considered the manner in which the Speaker himself was made. He has followed the law of his creation, that is all. Compare the organization of this House by Mr. Cameron's Speaker with the organizations under the austere KERR or the vigilant and incorruptible RANDALL! They arranged their committees so as to check jobbery, and save the public money; and they accomplished their purpose. The measures of the lobby were strangled as fast as they appeared; and before Mr. RANDALL had been at the head of the Appropriations Committee for one session and Speaker for two sessions, the lobby itself had censed to struggle and taken itself off, to reappear only with Keifen, with Secon Robeson for his sponsor.

KEIFER has made no mistakes. He has framed his committees so as to reverse completely the policy of KERB and RANDALL. Retrenchment, economy, careful revision of the executive estimates, can have no place in the programme which is to be wrought out by KEIPER. Almost every one of the committees seems to have been made up with a distinct view to extravagance, if not to corruption. The purpose is disclosed not merely in the assignments of the members of the majority party, but in the studied misplacing of the ablest and most trusted men of the minority-the only men to whom the country looks with real confidence for the defeat of vicious legislation. Mr. Rax-DALL, for instance, would have been a terror to his old enemy of the lobby had Mr. Robeson seen fit to name him as the first Democratic member on the Appropriations. But the lobby is to meet with no terrors in this House, and Mr. Ran-DALL is crowded upon the Ways and Means with two other Pennsylvanians to keep him company, while HEWITT can hardly be discovered at all, and tireless, sleepless, dogged, unapproachable HOLMAN, whom Speaker RAN-DALL in his time singled out to defend the avenues to the Treasury as Chairman of the been engendered in his mind. Indeed, no Committee on Appropriations, is sunk clean

hoped he will never be heard from. Certainly nobody will be able to question purpose or the character of his work; and | were associated together. new and durable Republican success.

The Elevated Railroad Decisions.

recent judicial decisions in the elevated of our State Supreme Court, but also by Judge BLATCHFORD of the United States Circuit Court. The defeated party has, of prospect of success at the end. It is probable that both the decisions just made will be confirmed by the courts of last resort and become established law.

For the present, at all events, it is settled that a contract made between two or more corporations for the benefit of the stock- portion consists of private bills and jobs; holders of either, may be abrogated by the and of these many have come down through officers of the same corporations without Congress after Congress from times aimost the consent of their constituents, and even immemorial. against it, unless special provision has been made giving those constituents a stagers. They come up smiling, at the heright of action in their own behalf, ginning of every new session; get pigeon-The agreement of the Manhattan Company, it is held, guaranteeing to the Metropolitan Elevated Railway Company an annual dividend of ten per cent, posed legislation that fails to reach a voto its capital stock, can only be enforced by the directors of the Metropolitan Company, and they may, as they have done, cancel the guarantee, no having been rejected or neglected by sucmatter how many of the stockholders who ceasive Congresses, finally squeezes its way were to receive the dividends protest against into enactment either in the rush of bustit. It may be a consolation to them, how- ness at the end of the session or by layor of with the course usually cursued by the Presty. | cipal stars. They form a figure resembling the ever, though a poor one, to know that it some new combination of circumstances, tertae Church regarding Sunday wors? Opin- letter W. The new star appeared opposite the the new hearing in the STORY case, which has recently been ordered by the Court of Appeals, should result, as it is likely to result, in a decision by that court awarding to the and operating of the elevated railroad strucbe nothing left to quarrel over. These dam- referred to the Committee on Claims: ages, it is estimated, will more than also ro ! the value of the entire elevated railway share capital, and even make a serious inroad upon the security of the bonded acht. which, many good lawyers hold, will have a greeness had not and the total day or the first day

to be subordinated to them. A more interesting view of the decisions to the general public, have ver, is their exect, upon the rights of stockholders in nine I pended pulmation, takes uprime shat costs (crabanter both but lay not to share but as not become corporations, which have a introduce for the people money. In the aggregate, the thom. The beathern were har by a correct t the payment of rental dividends simi- proposterous, dishonest, and hopoless bits | the this ext she ground, and the meeting atlar to those which have been abrogated take up a rant deal of time. Each new seas fournet set out any result being research. by the clovated rational Boards of Directors. sion finds the cuit greater. Is the remedy | Wa see no unassay for any nontroversy on The stock of such corporations, bought and to reduce by constitutional amendment the this amount. if there is the sughtest doubt in sold in this market, hitherto at high prices province of private and special legislation, on account of its supposed security as an as has been done to this State? on account of its supposed security as an as has been done in this State? investment, amounts, as we showed a fort- Perhaps there would not be such a deluge anything worth printing, the newspapers of

chasers of such stock, hereafter, to examine | sible for the measures they introduce, as carefully the contracts for the payment of the dividends upon it and ascertain whether or not they are as precarious as were those o! May, 1879, between the elevated railway

In a few of the contracts of this sort, of which we have, so far, been able to procure the elevated railroad cases has apparently been foreseen. In the lease to the Pennsylroads of New Jersey, it is provided that "the right is hereby given to each and every stockholder to presecute such suits as may part" of the rental dividend, "notwithstanding any future action of any of the corporations parties hereto, or of any majority of the respective stockholders thereof." This is about as strong innguage as could be desired, and it ought to be proof against assault. The Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad lease is less satisfactory, but even that says that "the said sum of \$1,380,000 shall at all times be and remain applicable by the party of the first part [the lessor company] as ers of the said party of the first to eat." part." Precisely the same words are used in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad lease, both having been drawn, we believe, by the Hon. SAMUEL J. TILDEN as counsel. The Joliet and Chicago Raliroad lease, also drawn by Mr. TILDEN, makes the Chicago and Alton Railroad Company agree to "guarantee and pay unto the holders of the shares of all the capital stock of the party of the first part . . . an annual dividend of seven per centum upon the par

value of said shares." The leases of the other railroads, whose guaranteed stocks are most dealt in on our Stock Exchange, we have been unable to obtain, some not being in print, and one, that of the Harlem Railroad, being jealously secreted from the eyes even of the directors of both the Central and the Harlem companies. What we have said is sufficient, however, to put persons interested upon their inquiry, and we leave the further prosecution of it to them.

Jefferson Davis Not a Thief.

Every newspaper from one end of the country to the other is saying something about JEFFERSON DAVIS. A distinguished Confederate General, JOB JOHNSTON, has charged him with running off with \$2,800,000 in specie belonging to the late Confederacy; and while he has said nothing himself, Mr. Davis's friends have been quick to come forward in his defence.

There is no probability that during his unfortunate administration of Confederate affairs Mr. Davis was ever guitty of the slightest act of pecuniary dishonesty. He is a man of much refinement of nature and great directness of character; and there is no doubt that while he was an enemy to the Union, he conscientiously devoted the whole of his remarkable though not always judiclous abilities to the cause he had chosen to

We dare say that such attacks as this from Gen. Johnston are not unexpected by Mr. DAVIS. Indeed, he has taken the surest means of provoking them. He has written the story of the late war as he knows it, and in giving to the world much of importance that would otherwise have been lost, he must pay the inevitable penalty of an historian of his own time and his own actions In describing the course of the Confederacy, he had to tell of events stretching over four years of unflagging activity, and narrate momentous developments of which he was himself the principal director. At the same time, he has not withheld any criticism upon his associates and subordinates, or suppressed any feeling of animosity that had writer was ever more merciless or unsparout of sight in some odd corner, where it is | ing; and the natural result of all this is to call | the Visitors insist that, nevertheless, this whole out contradictions, counter statements, and | business is contrary to the law, which expressly violent denunciations from many who, oil directs all supplies, of whatever sort, to be fur-REIFER'S intentions, or perhaps we ought one point or another, disagreed with mished at cost. Yet almost \$50,000 have been to say, the intentions of those who have him | him at the time, and now take exceptions to | accumulated in the funds tarough charges in charge. There is no mistaking either the his report of transactions in which they above cost. The object of these reserves is not

no one can deny that the new Republican | In some respects, these controversies are Congress has begun its career as badly as to be regretted; for the mind would fall atpossible. It is not by such means that the tribute to the actors in such tremendous confidence of the country can be retained, scenes a magnitude of proportion and a digand the election of 1884 made the occasion of | nity of behavior which we now see that they are often very far from possessing; but, on throughout, insuling trose in the matter of the other hand, such disputes tend to elicit clothing, and hereafter parcelling an commisand establish the truth concerning the mighty catastrophe in which American There is no use in disputing the extent eslavery finally perished. Accordingly, we are and the importance of the victory which the not sorry to believe that while Mr. Davis has escaped all legal punishment, and has come railroad cases have secured to the Gould- off with a general reputation for honesty FIELD combination. All that this com- and sincerity at least, he is not likely to bination contended for has been accorded escape from the animostties of those who them, not only by the General Term sinned together with him. Moreover, what ness to their quarrels is the great and most wholesome circumstance that when he uncourse, its right of appeal, but the path be- dertook the history of the rebellion, he un- policy of sending armed soldiers upon Mexi- teen mont's disappeared. It has never neer fore it is long and tedious, and with a poor dertook the history of one of the most

gigantic failures yet known to man. The Deinge of Private Bills.

Of the twenty-six or twenty-eight hundred bills already before Congress, a very large

Every Congressman knows these old holed in committee room or tabled in House or Senate; and are left over at the end of the session as part of the huge mass of pro-

in either House. It occasionally happens that one of these venerable measures for private relief, after The old stagers, therefore, are sometime. | ions differ widely among the preachers on this | right-hand opening of the letter. The olserver dangerous customers in prospect, although harmless en ugh in record.

Some of the private claims carried to Conowners of property injured by the building gress are of amezing character. Here, for reacting handreds, as it would if confined example, i- Senate Bill No. 63, introduced by tures compensation for damages, there will Mr. VOORHEES by unammous consent and

> " he steamed die. That the proper accounting officers of and pay to the legal representatives of Grokov Watson. | Ing. The practical ministers came to the front lecessed, his buil pay and allowance as a soldier of of May, seventeen bunds, I and similardy-

Every private bill, even if it travels only if a neglige word time leads to demonstrately more in hogispetrical above.

night ago, to many millions of dollars. It of private bills if it were the practice to Cleveland, if they are as anterprising as they

they are held responsible for the speeches they make.

Practical Christianity.

Dr. KENNION, the street preacher, is a practical Christian. He gives his congregation food as well as preaching. During copies, the contingency which has arisen in | his services he does not vilify the vagrants who gather around him every Sunday, or glory before them on his own superior vania Railroad Company of the United Rail- status. He is kind with them, shakes hands with them, and speaks to them as courteously as the ministers of rich churches do to members of their congregations. As a be necessary to recover his proportionate | result, these people come regularly to hear him. He has succeeded in forming a congregation from the most destitute and wretched of our city.

On Thanksgiving and Christmas Dr. Kennion gives these people a good dinner, and then he has no other religious services. 'These people," he says, "are cold and hungry. My preaching won't warm them or still their hunger. They will be cold and hungry just so much longer if I preach to them before dinner. It I preach to them after dinner I may keep them from going to a dividend fund for the stockhold- some other place where they can get more

Is there not a great deal of religion in

this method? What did the President of the Brooklyn New England Society mean the other night by saying of CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW that "age cannot wither his infinite variety?" Mr. DEPEW is not yet an old man, and nobody knows what effect age may have upon his fine powers and his manly presence. Such imputations should not thoughtiessly be cast upon so handsome a man.

Whatever the degree of skill with which Lawyer Scoville has conducted the defence of GUITEAU, he did not merit the censure passed upon him by Lawyer Postes on Saturday. Mr. Scoville has undertaken," said the latter, "to insuit emigent gentlemen in the witness box " Judge Cox's quiet reply, "You are mistaken. Mr. PORTER. I do not think that Mr. Scoville has done so," was no more than just. Mr. Scovings has been moderate in the use of his privileges as an advocate. GUITEAU has been outrageously abusive, and the lawyers for the prosecution have done a good deal of speering, but Mr. Scovillicannot be charged with insulting witnesses.

When Congress takes up the West Point appropriation bill, it may do well to give heed to the report which the Board of Visitors made on the fiscal affairs of the Military Academy. They discovered that several buildings had been srected out of the proceeds of the endet quartermaster's fund, which is raised by charging the cadets for their clothing more than it costs, in direct violation of law. Again, the officer was performs the duties of commissacy, quartermaster, and trassurer had \$40,000 in his hands last June, and \$100,000 pass through his hands annually, of which there is no account beyond his own books. His integrity is not doubted, but business methods require that he should give a bond, and should account directly to the Treasury Department.

The law demands that the clothing and meas provisions shall be delivered without costing any commission or advance. Yet the Board, in he researches, found that the quartermaster's clerk was receiving \$300 out of the cadet fund, in addition to the \$900 fixed by Congress as the salary of this clerk. The excuse is, of course, that a sultable clark could not be got for \$900 a year and his home; but the Board very properly declares that this excuse is not valid. If Congress thinks that this sum is not enough. larger appropriation must be insisted upon but evidently Congress believes there are clerks enough in the country who would be competent and glad to do the work for furnished quarters and the sum it appropriates. The Board found. niso, that the callets were taxed to meet the laundry expenses, when there was an accumulation of more than fifty per cent, of the yearly expenses in the callet laundry accounts. Aunor accumulating fund, in whose administration the Visitors demanded a change, was the printing fund, created by charging more than

The integrity with which these various funds apparent, unless it is, perhaps, due to the nabit of triply guarding against all possible catastrephes and cataciyams, which is a characteristic, able one, of quartermaster, commissary, and pay departments. But the Visitors are properly bent on destroying the percentage systems stops to be charged. Congress should not fall

to note these stogn ar disclosures. The capture of ALZETTA and more than of the readiness of the Mexican Governupon the former plea that the neighbor repub- about fifteen years ago near the same apot. lie is not doing its part toward putting down the have escaped from our own reservations, to

A six-day foot race is added to the enterthis line would have discouraged a less purappear in the list of contestants, but the major-

The Presbyterian ministers of Cleveland | It was called the Pricrim. have been discussing the question whether the publication of Sunday sermons in Monday near you the neath, early in the eventue. Church are said to look upon the publication of sermons as akin to preaching, with this difference, that instead willing to give their manus cipts to the nowspapers if the aditors would agree that they should not be set in type until Monday mornagata, and said that this into putting of seramount of other typesetting on Sunday night Another minister angresion that if the publica-

behooves the holders or intending pur- hold Senators and Representatives respon- ought to be, will take means to get it and print

it, without troubling the preacher, and thus relieve him of all responsibility in the matter. Thus they will see their names and the very best of their thoughts in print, and the sin of printing them will rest, not on them, the preachers, but on the reporters, editors, compositors, proof readers, stereotypers, and press men who assist in preparing what every live minister wants and reads, his Monday morn-

MR. TILDEN ON THE BOUTH. Letter in Answer to an Invitation to the At

ing newspaper.

From the Atlanta Constitution GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor eceive your resolutions inviting me to visit the International Cotton Exposition as your guest and designating Mesers. Robert Tannahill, John H. Inman, and M. B. Fieldiffe as a special committee to communicate them to me. I have also had the honor of a personal presentation of a copy of the resolutions at the hands of those gentlemen, accompanied by Gov. Colquitt, the President of the Exposition, and Gen. Gordon

It is with much regret that I feel obliged to deny myself the great pleasure tendered me with such distinguished courtesy. It would delight me to interchange friendly greetings with the citizens whom I should expect to meet at Atlanta, and to avail myself of so favorable as opportunity for observing with my own eyes the elements of industrial growth which promise a future of marvellous prosperity to the Southern States, Above all, I desire to contribute my influence, however inconsiderable toward encouraging a movement to organiz investigation and intelligence concerning subjects of vast interest, not to the South alone, but

to our whole country and the world. I may venture to hope that the public spirit which created and has sustained this Exposition is not exhausted, but that the signal suc eas of this first essay will induce similar efforts, attract increasing public attention to them, and secure for them wider cooperation

and more perfect development. The last time I visited those islands which were the homes of most of our ancestors. realized what a benefaction it was that had se in these heavens a sun which is generally radi ant and sometimes binzing. It is what climatologists call the upward curve in the hour! and daily tides of heat, which makes our 450, 000,000 bushels of wheat a sure crop, which ripens our 1,750,000,000 bushels of corn, and which enables us to grow 6,000,000 bales of the best and cheapest cotton.

The invention which separates by machiners the fibre of the cotton from the seed gave a new comfort to every fireside. Better clothing a ess cost was a boon to mankind. The fact that one-half of the present cotton crop is the product of white labor has dispensed the flipsion that the Caucasian race had been excluded by Providence from their natural share in so important a culture, and assures in the future an ample supply of labor from sources of indefinite extent. This result derives momentous importance from the fact that the actual culture of the cotton is now applied to less than onethirtieth part of the lands embraced in the cot ton belt.

The development of your agricultural indus tries will soon be followed by manufactures. A mature community, while it is enlarging the positive volume of its external commerce, increases the proportion of domestic manufacture tures which enter into the local consumption.

The advantages of a superior adaptation of climate, soil, and other spontaneous bounties o nature, and of a geographical contiguity to the market, are a legitimate protection to the local industries, founded on the greatest productiveness of human labor in supplying the wants of man, and upon the utmost saving in the cost of transportation between the producer and consumer. It contrasts with the artificial devices of legislation, always unskillful, and often perverted by selfish greed, which generally have the effect of diminishing the productive power of human labor, just as if the soil were rendered less fertile, or the climate less genial by act o ongress, in order to enable the deluded bene fleinry to make some profit out of enterprises otherwise unremanerative.

The South is rich in natural capacities of prouction, as yet mainly unappropriated. To utilize these capacities is a beneficent process Its results may come, not so fast or so soon as some may hope, but I predict that when they do come they will in their magnitude transcend the anticipations of the most sanguine. Your SAMUEL J. TILDEN. GRAYSTONE, Dec. 17.

A Wonderful Star. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: It is said that the star of Bethellem is visible. If it is, where and when what I have to it?

Readen
New London, Dec. 24.

Several correspondents have lately inquired about a reappearance of the so-called Star of Bethlebem. Some have mistaken the planet Juniter for this phenomenon. It seems to be thought that a reappearance of this star must be one of the wonders of the year 1881. We once told the story of the star that astronomers semetimes call Tyche Brahe's star, and which has been fancifully dubbed the Sur of Bethlehem. In the year 1572 Tycho Brahe, the most famous two score of his followers by the Mexi- astronomer of his time, on going out to walk one can troops is an additional illustration evening was astenished to see a splendid star blazing in the constellation Cassioneia, where ment to cooperate with our own in rid- he knew no such star had been before. It was ding the border of thieving Indians. Mexi- first seen by some wageners driving their can troops evertook and killed Victorio and teams along the country reads at night. For will always lend a sting of intense bitter- | nearly annihilated his band after he had builted | three weeks it outshone all the other stars in the our forces for years and had ravaged the fron- say and exhibited, by turns, a variety of belltiers of New Mexico and Arizona. If the old | liant colors. Then it began to fade, and in sixcan territory is again reserved to, it eacnot be seen since, aithough a small star was discovered

In tooking over the records of astronomical plunderers of the horder. The Mexican troops observations it was found that a new star had have of late been more expert than our own, or | suith may appeared near the same place in the at any rate more successful, in their capture or | year 1254. The theory was then formed that destruction of hostile Indians, most of whom this night be a variable star with a period of over 300 years between its maxima. Further carry on their marauding upon both sides of research brought to light records of the appearance of a similar star in that part of the sky in the year 945. There is a discrepancy of eleven years between the two periods, but this did not tainments of Christmas week. Exxis, its pro- prevent somebody from calculating the supmoter, must be indefatigable, for his failures in posed series of appearances back, and thereupon announcing that the star must have apsistent manager. Half a dozen new names peared at the time of the birth of Christ, Jerome Cardan, the astrologer, was one of the first who ity are the familiar rounders of the dars when sought to identify this phenomenon with the pedestrianism was the leading stufells graze. | starthal served the wise men of the East as a entity to the manger in which the Saviour lay,

morning newspapers is a thing to be en-couraged or discouraged. Is the potting into first caucht sight of the wooderful star. The type of a sermion on Sumiley faith consistent (esqual trop may be recognized by its five prinsubject. Some of the practical men of the should not be misled by some small stars in that neighborhood which are easily seen with the not I eye. The star that is said to occupy nearly the place of the phenomenon of 1572 is only visible in telescopes. If this is a variable to the pulpit, the sermen roaches thousands star with a period varying between 3/8 and 313 when given to the newspapers. Others were | years, it may be expected to blaze out ugain at any time between now and 1891.

A Simple Sum in Arithmette.

To the Epiton of The Sun-Sir: Four bunfree minimum are to be releved during the present facpretiminate hearths Forty seventh congress may

on her tell appearer a the N -, -

Est traced and a healthy old-instance Republic

Mrs. Langtry's Salary. From the Tribune It is reported that she receives \$500 weekly at the Haymarket

THE WONDERS OF COBSERS. Interesting Specimens of the Work of Spiders

In a Naturalist's Collection "See anything peculiar about this?" naturalist asked of a reporter who had dropped into his sanctum at High Bridge. The object he held up was a block of earth about eight inches in length and four in width, resembling more than anything else the frozen earth lifted out of a small flower pot, with the upper surface planted with growing mosses and small plants of various kinds. "In this block of earth," he continued, "there is a regular palace, and the door is right under your nose. As he spoke he inserted a long pin into the ground among the moss and lifted up an oval door that exposed a large, deep well, lined with silk in a most gorgeous manner, and as a gleam of sunlight from the window caught the gossamer it seemed changed to molten silver, deepening in the interior to a golden yellow, and at every move scintillating with dazzling rays of tridescence, in strange contrast to the rough

and sombre surroundings. 'It's wonderful " the naturalist said. " You hardly expect so much from a spider, and the most skilful work from human hands fails to come up to this. It's the castle of the trap-door spider mygale, and this one I found near Charleston, S. C. You see it's a well about five inches deep and two wide, lined with silk, and having on top a door that fits so exactly that rour close examination failed to detect it. A perfect hinge of silk allows it to work freely. and it is so nicely arranged that it always closes after the owner has passed in or out. 'How did these mosses and weeds get on the

loor of the trap ?" 'In many cases the spider places them there, its idea being to make the place resemble, a nearly as possible, the surrounding country and so skilful are they in hiding their doors that I hunted two weeks before I found this one and then it was only by chance. I had been tramping through the woods nearly all day, and was stretched out on a bank, about half asleep when I heard a rustle at my elbow, and looked down just in time to see a trap-door fly up and go down with a jerk, and you may be sure I commenced operations at once. When I had located the door exactly I dug a trench all around it, down about a foot, and worked as near the trap as I could, and after trimming it down as you see it. I gave it four or five good coats of glue, and ultimately got it out safely. While I was at work it was curious to see the alarm of the spider. Every lew minutes the door would lift a little, and I would see the hairy leg of the little fellow, but the slightest tap would send it down. After one of these retreats I inserted my knife blade into the door and tried to lift it. Something was holding it back on the other side, evidently, as it did not lift up with the ease with which I had seen it under the numble nandling of the owner. Bending down and lifting the door at the same time. I saw the cause. The spider was holding the door down. Its mandibles were fastened into the sliken lining, while with its feet it was brazing back and hedding on with all its strength, and only when I had lifted it almost out did it let go and retreat to the lower part of the well, where it coiled up its legs and pretended to be dead."

"How do they build the traps?"

"Just as a man would built a well. After making their selection of a locality, they commence taking out bits of earth with their mouths and pushing them away with their legs. As soon as they get below the surface a shoring-un process is begun. Slik is spun and attacued to the wail by some secretion. The door is a prolongation of this sliken wail; so, as the spider works down, eaving in is prevented in this way, and finally the outer skiles of the door, which is naturally bright, is covered with soil, and bits of mess are placed on it. There are a number of different kinds of trapdoor spiders in this country and Europe, some having two or three traps in the different parts of the well, the spider retreating from one to another as danger pressee.

"Here's a spider, he said, handing down and can other as danger pressee. go down with a jerk, and you may be sure commenced operations at once. When I had

having two or three traps in the different parts of the well, the spider retreating from one to another as singer presses.

"Here's a spider," he said, handing down one of a number of glass jars covered with fine gauze, "that builds a web funnel after the general shape of the trap, but it is infinitely more delicate, and is always at right angles with the surface, and contains no doore."

By holding the jar up against the sun, the fairy-like tunnel could be traced, following around the side of the jar, perfectly eyiladrical, and, after extending four or five inches, widening out into a broad web, or platform, that was held in place by myriade of single silvery and almost microscopic cables, extending from it to the upper part of the glass.

"Ine web in front," the naturalist continued, "is to catch prey, and the whole edifice was built in one night. By rights, the spiders would be hibernating, or in a winter sieep; but I am keeping them in a warm room to prevent this, and see what they will do, or what the effect will be. There is a fly. Now watch the spider,"

The reporter held a large hand magnifying glass over the web, and the fly was released in the lar, landing on the fatal platform. At the first hum the apider darted out, with its eves flashing and its two fore legs in the air. The instant the fly struck, the spider was on it, grasting it firmly in its inwa, and soon had it in the silken tunnel.

silken tunnel.

in the silken tunnel.

"Here's another fellow," he said, taking down another jar, "that seems to have no system about building, but hangs its lines and cables in every direction, forming great sheets of web. Some in my stable are two feet long."

A fly was put in and a different method of attack became apparent. The spiler waited until the fly had become entangied in the web, and then rushed to the front. Silk was taken from the spinnerets with its legs so quickly that it was almost impossible to follow its movements, and hurled about the unfortunate victum, and its wings were in a few seconds bound down firmly by the silken hands. The spiler then drew nearer to end this tranedy, when another of the same species, that had been a silent witness, ciambered down from a shelf of web above, and evidently entered a counter claim. With fore legs high in air, eyes glistening like aparks of fire, they moved toward each other, and like a flash they struck with their fore feet, and with lightning-like movements of the other legs, which at first seemed to come from wounds on the index of a vision limit appeared on their legs, which at first seemed to come from wounds on the index of a vision limit appeared on their legs, which at first seemed to come from wounds on the mouth. They were actually framing with race, and the secretion was evidently used to render the cables of alk sticky and adhesive. The result of this warfare was that the legitimate owner of the fly soon secretal that it barely escaped. male owner of the fly soon succeeded in en-tangling the invader to such an extent that it barely escaped.

Liste's a spider that never builds a nest."

It was a short harry fulfile sellow, and, on a fly being introduced, it pounced on it like a timer. "If a man could jump as far, in proportion to his size, Harlem River would be nothing. They only use their web as a cautionary measure. That is, it making a long jump from an elevation, they fasten a single cable to the point of departure, and if they miss they swing off by it and recover their position. They show roint of departure, and if they miss they swing off by it and recover their position. They show great cunning, stealing up on a fly as a cat does on a mouse, turning their heads this war and that, and then, with a leap, landing fairly on the back of the victim, killing it with one nip of their poisonous fance. Of all the 4.600 species of spiders known," taking down a glass covered dish. "It is one can be called King." It was aborrible creature, sithough dead. Its body was as hig as a large mouse, and when placed in a saucer its hairy less hung over the sides. "It's the tarantula, and a ship wrecked one at that. I was cruising among the islands off Cuba when we picked up a deserted schooner. She was in good condition, and the only living thing aboard was a number of these spiders, and I secured this one. There are other ones that are sometimes in the product of the secured in the contraction and there is ctived as catching amail birds, and there is thing improbable in it. This one could catch Are they poisonous?"

In some cases and at certain times of the year. Boss Shophard' is reported to have been bettern by one in a Mexican mine and is said to be on the way home on that account. Whiskey has been used as an antidote.

Mr. R. B. Rayes Pleading Poverty. CLEVELAND, Dec. 24.-The facts about Mr.

to the unsuccessful appeal to Mr. R. S. Haves for a description to the Garfield Puniture as follows: The object of the Garfield Memorial Association is to erect a bronze monument, to cost \$200,000, over the apo where the late President's remains rested in state. A number of citizens of Clereland besided the subscription not with \$1 to apiece. From the towns and villages of northwestern Ohio the response was liberal. little were so encouraged that they decided to ask Mr. It it liayes of Framont to become our of the thousand-dotter subscribers. The fact that Mr. Hayes had indenitely postponed his subscription to an ther disched and-that for the widow and skildren-did not deter con from the attempt. The member of the committee selected to go to Mr.

fares and make the appeal in person was the lion. J. overt. ex-member of the Ohio Legislature and long of the Coverind Coder editorial staff.
Mr. Coveri's application was decied by Mr. Hayes, all peremptorily, half applogetically, powerty being the se offered for the refueal.

To illustrate how I have been misroncesented in this entier of wearth," said Mr. Hasse, " routherd only recall as rejects of my farming transactions to the Rest Research unity it is said that I have just reacted largely : sale of wheat. I will tell you that I am mot \$2 to our f protet on that wheat transaction. My toward out there injuit me two barrels of flour, which, after paying the transportation, left me just that amount worse

Mr. Haves went o nto say that his savines out of the sa ary drawn by him as President of the United States had seen greatly exaggerated, that his bank dividends had not me up to expectations, and that, under all the encounstances, he found himself unable to contribute anything to the fund for a manument to Garfield. His desire to do so was very great, but grade noe forbade. DINING WITH DR. KENNION.

Four Hundred Hungry People Served with Warm Foud and Kind Words. "Stand back, sir!" said Dr. Kennion, yes terday afternoon, to a man who presented a ticket for the Christmas dinner the Doctor was giving his congregation in sections of forty in South street. "Stand back: you're a re-penter. You've been in here once before to-day and eaten. You're trying to cheat a man as

poor as yourself out of a dinner." The man slunk away, and one by one the others entered the little saloon. There they found tables spread with goodly portions of poultry with dressing and potatoes, and saucers with cranberries or apple sauce. When the men had finished dinner and were passing out they each received a loaf of bread and a out they each received a loaf of oreas and a piece of pie. Ontside they got hot coffee. Dr. Kennton was on the sidewalk, and whenever a particularly wretched and forforn-looking man came out he shook hands and spoke kindly to him, and the man parted from the Doctor with a "God bless you!"

Dr. Kennton noticed a man clad in rags and shivering.

Shivering. "What sort of work can you do, my friend?"

"What sort of work can you do, my friend?"
he asked.
"I am a litterateur," said the man, with a
proper pronunciation of the last word.
"What have you done in the way of writing?"
"In the old country, sir, I published a volume
of poems and articles on Irish history. I'm a
good copyist."
"Well, my friend, get a dinner here to-day,
and I'll look around for some work during the
week. Now. don't spend, this" (dropping a
quarter into his hand) "for drink. Get a
night's lodging where you can keep warm."
"God bless you, Doctor, and keep you a long
time for us poor people!" were the man's parting words.

Altegether about 400 very poor people dined with Dr. Kennion yesterday.

RISHOP MOUAID'S SERMON. What is Said of it in Oswego-No Impression

Oswego, Dec. 25 .- Bishop McQuald's ser mon at Bochester does not seem to have made any special impression upon the priesthood or the supporters of the Land League in this neighboring diocese. At the meeting of the Oswego Land League, last evening, Mr. Bolger. a prominent member, said he was informed by a diocesan of Bishop McQuaid that the Bishop is a landholder in Ireland. The Rev. Father Berry of St. Paul's Church thought the Bishon was under a misapprenousion concerning the Land League, which is not a secret organization, and added that the Bishop's sermen would not have much influence. For himself he believed the objects of the League to be wise and legal, and he was anxious for its success. In an interview yesterday the Rev. Father O'Connell. President of the Oswego League, and one of the most brilliant and able priests in this section of the State, said Bishop McQuaid's threat of excommunication amounted to nothing, for he cannot excommunicate a priest unless he rebeis against his authority. That prerogative is reserved to the Pope. The Bishop, he said, addressed his sermon to those who deny the authority of the Church, which the Lanu League does not do. The hundred priests who attended the Chicago Convention did not wish to antagonize the Church to which they belong.

The Land League is very strong in this city, and its enthusiasm has not been checked by Bishop McQuaid's sermon. was under a misapprehension concerning the

Bishop McQuald and the Land League.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have read carefully the several letters published in Tax Sus in reply to Bishop McQuaid's deminiciation of the Land League. Bishop Nuity of Meath, Ireland, save that God the land of every country for the inhabitants thereof, and I believe Rishop Nuity is as capable of knowing the will and intentions of our common Creator as Bishop Mc-Quald or any of the other ecclesiastics who have thought ence in favor of English injustice because it is of long standing, and against the reasonable and honest demand if the whole people of Ireland for a fair proportion of th and of that country for the support of every inhabitant of that country who is willing to work for an honest liv-ing. A few years ago Pupe Pius IX did not ectuple to fight and shed blood in Italy for what he considered the property of the Church. He had no objection to the use of Irish soldiers in the accomplishment of his design neither had Cardinal Cuilen or Bishop Moriarty, who gave their blessing to those Irish soldiers when they went to fight for the Pope. But a few short years after, when

To run Epiron of Tax Stx-Sir: "T. J.," who wishes | the royal borough. The son went to Eton and thence t the Irish people to follow the law laid down in the seventh commandment, should east his eyes back to the saxon conquest and think who then owned the land of oncide? I am only one Irishman's son out of the thou-aids who have been driven to these shores, and who it waiting for a blow to be struck to show what their waiting are on the subject. Mambar FROM CONPACCHT. JARSEY CITY. Dec. 25.

To the Eprior of The Sun-Sir : Bishop McQuaid's posttion is perfectly impregnable. If robbery is right, the Land League is right, but if robbery is wrong, and I have the idea that it is, then the Bishop is right in denouncing the least that it is, men the minor array to the land Leasue as a corrupter of morals. It is a plain question of himself spraint robbery, and all the plainties exclanations made cannot ever up the fact that Parine, who thinks hower the successor of O Conneil Gravan, and the other high minded from pairrots, is mistassen. Buodatry, Dec. 24.

In Pavor of a Pention for Every Soldier. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir; No doubt ome men have obtained pensions by misrepresentation and sharp practice. No doubt some can make a clear case from wounds received when but little suffering was endured at the time and no inconvenience has since re-suited. But there is certainly a large class of honest and patrictic men who went into the service and served faith patrictic men who went into the service and server tailing, and contracted diseases, but cannot be one and went to weak trainful v to make an honest living. As they grew older their disability and suffering increased, and it tecame more difficult to earn a diving by labor. They fall to see why they are not equally entitled with their companies who were only slightly wounded to support

the divergment.
When I think of the hardships endured by the private solder. It seems transmable that every private solder control to the moderate allowance.

J. E.

Interesting to Mr. John I. Bavenport.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Myself nd many others have been employed copying the regist y of the late election in the office of Chief Supervisor ohn I Davenport. The work is now compl. ted, and we have not been papt, although we were promised, when are several of the clocks who have been concleded to sawn their effects to procure the means to meet their sawn their effects to procure the means to meet their large steiners. Others have been breed to dispose of their calims to a lawyer at consequently discount until the have resided to accept any more on any terms.

Now, what refress have wat Perlangs if this should meet the eye of Mr. Davenhord it would be the means of cetting its our rights. As it is, we shall have bestive over thristmas as best we can.

DEC 24, 1881.

Fox Hunting in Connecticut.

GREENWICH, Dec. 25 .- Foxes are quite numerus in this vicinity. Hunters have for some time been after a very fine one. On Toursday a party, composed of half a ducen or more, struck the trail of this f. x. He was chused to North Castle, N. Y. and back to the piece of all thing when Mr. Miner get a good head on Keymaid and shorthim, its crossit to be a very large fox, weigning 14 panels. It was a cross between a red and gray.

He Used to be a Boy Bimself.

From the Little Rock Gazotte. The other day a show came to Little Rock and Was shane that the test for any a crown of consecution born are the result for any a crown of consecution born attention of account of financial depression.

The year paragraph washer go before the the same to the born test countries. We start a countries the born test countries that the born test countries the born test countries. The borstinal and in more charact. We at them one on I user be achied a perfect in the first of the content of the interpolation of the content of the conte

the money." The per no tickets and I down one yer no This was over yer no tickets and large over yer un manner. I didn't bell yer tor pass de beyen. I sant count the large beautiful that showmen is seed on rich mante, and I wanted be a subsy tweef. Yer say dat dar was twenty beye. I don't ensure yer word case I sun't us matteriren. Spessen I tame at I too beye ber de cashirr of a tunk an area binn for count em, horse dat against a tunk an area binn for count em, horse dat against a tunk an area binn for count em, horse dat against a tunk an area binn for count em, horse dat against a tunk and area binn for count em, horse dat against a tunk and area binn for country to the short of the short of the particular of the short of the country to the the had bett the entrance unguarded, turned, and larm walked area.

Compliments Over Mr. Blaine's Panck Bowl. From the Purkland Press. On Thursday Mr. Blaine turned over the De-

stillent to black to his statement, Mr. For task year, of he the symmetric residual hallested the numbers of the will exist the symmetric residuals his insplicable frome in Followith street, and business that the wints introduce them to the level of the symmetric residuals and the during ment. Mann Mr. Blaine excepted Freedom Asthmit to make the second Administration of the symmetric residuals and the second residuals and the second residuals. The symmetric residuals are successful to the second residuals and the second residuals. The remarked the freedom of the second residuals to the second residuals and the second residuals are second residuals and the second residuals are second residuals. to start. For each of the freedom. This to be seen and an incident at the Turklows conforming A an exact an earlier of the freedom of the inconcennal a number years thance, when Freedom each of the Freedom of the fre BUNBEAMA

-A train known as the Rapide now runs brough from Calais to the Mediterranean, skirting Paris. -The Rev. Arthur A. Walte, an evangenst, losed a revival at Lynn, Mass, by running away at-

out paving his bills. -If half the stories of his gains be true Meissonier must be growing very rich indeed. He bave \$16,000 for Mrs. Mackey's portrait.

-A druggist of Bellows Falls, Vt., has seen sent to prison for thirty days for selling itquor as a beverage. He had been flood before for a like offen -A Paris shopkeeper launches little balloons as an advertisement and sometimes gets tilings ; them from a distance. One launched on Nov. 2 had to a

days later reached Westphalia. -The Hon. B. Maxwell, son of the late Lord Herries, a Roman Catholic neer, lately married in London Miss Jessup of Philadelphia. Mr. Maxwell and

his prother have large ranches in the West -London papers say that Lady Hill. Trevor's jewelry was worth nearly \$3(0,00) It was taken, evidently, by some one sequainted with the hous. and two servants have been arrested on suspicion -Capt. John Brooks, who lately died at

Bridgeport, Conn., lett in his will an injunction that his remains be strictly kept from the view of everybodyex. cent the undertaker. He desired to be remembered a -If the Baroness Burdett-Coutts survives her marriage ten years she will have paid, without in terest \$3.750,000 for a husband, taking her loss cons-

quent on marriage at £75,000 a year -an expensive int. ury, but she could afford it -A party of men and women in a box of the St. Charles Theatre, New Orleans, talked and laughed so loudly that the acting of "Hazet Kirke" was inter-rupted. Then they continued the noise perversely, and

ere put out by policemen. -The Roman Catholic Bishop of Cincinnati, in consequence of dancing having been allowed at some church fairs, has issued a circular positively to

church purposes, and round dances at any time. -An imperial ukase ordains a complete change of uniform throughout the Russian nne. The new costume, which is very nearly that recently given to the police, may be called national in character, and its adoption is one more sign of the spirit now prevalent in the highest quarter.

-The Rev. Dr. Woolfolk unfolded before the Polyte chare Society of Louisville his plan for "clute ing all the Arctic region in living green, and making the wintry world to blossom as the rose." This is to be brought about by exploding \$1,000,000 worth of powder -M. Paul Bert, who not long ago received

present of some crocodiles from Egypt has publicy natter, and it was concluded that these reptiles are derold of reason, and attimated by a destructive insti--The Paris correspondent of the London

Queen writes: "Parisians read very little in comparison with Londoners. The newspapers, though numerous are limited in volume, that universal Petit Journal hards contains as much as two columns of the Tone. West; inerature does not extend beyond the comic and the trated press. The mouthlies may be told off on the gers of the two hands." -The saying "as rich as a Jew" is com-

plained of by the Jama's Mossenger as unsteading at present even if it ever had any justification. The wealth of the Jews of New York is greatly overestimated, secon ing to this authority, for "the vast majority are in moderate circumstances, a few only are militonaires, and main thousand are actually dependent on the charity of their ore fortunate brethren." -A London paper says: "The expense which has to be incurred by a Lord Mayor of London is now so great that we are not likely ever again to we so

man allowing himself to be elected twice to fill the sition, even if the livery desired to confer that here upon him. Sir Fraucis Truscott's year of files cust him £20,0 to over and above the £10,000 allowed by the Corporation for expenses, and Mr. McArthur's onliny wa not amount to much less. -A recent visitor to Natal describes the life there as exceedingly rough and full of incom niences. The houses built by the Dutch settlers are destitute alike of comfort or beauty. The roads are exgrass, make cross country riding perilous. First and white and abound, and near water mosquitoes, too

Snakes are apt to intrude themselves into the house, and a sharp glance around a bedroom is expedient -The New England Protective Associa tion of Hotel, Boarding House and Restaurant Keepers has had a convention in Boston to discuss the "denof the proceedings says: "Sad-faced women remarked that there was no place here or hereafter bad enough trate men claimed that the wrongs inflicted on them by

beats were harder to bear than the sufferings of the Poncas." Legislation on the subject was demanded, -When Mr. Goldwin Smith last returned from England, he announced that he should never re means. His father was a leading practitioner in metcine and surgery at Windsor, and helped to bring into Oxford, where he became a Fellow of University College, while Dean Stanley, also a Fellow, was tut r. A family ous dyspeptic, and the classical scholar was Goldwin

Smith's reputation in college. -Those who pass from Kensington northward torough Palace Gardens find themselves in a pri vate read on which are some of the finest mandousing London. Conspicuous among these is Baron Kenter's with its four towers, to one of which the telegraph wire converge, and it is the Baron's lavorite amusement take a guest up to his telegraph room and ask him ir o what part of the world he would like to get a message. But near the Konsington gate is a red brice house, a couple of stories high, with a little green in front, and a billiard room at the stile, and here it was that Theckers, (who built the house out of the profits of his America lectures) lived the last peaceful and easy years of his life.

the step father and mother of the young barrister so mys-

teriously poisoned a lew years are near London -The change in the appearance of Gambetta is thus described by a French contemporary. *1 calls it an "autumnal sketch:" "Gambetra's change appearance is visible to the most careless observe Where is the young orator, souther, long-baired free colored, and conflict? The teatures have suns and their outline become hard and strongly marked, the conround, and the hair, which was once the crowning sky of the whole flaure, hasentirely lost the murnitir power of which Gamberta's friends were once as proud. The lion's mane, with which, in moments of oratorical wraft, mies by a threatening shoke, is gonef. His particular his its disappearance, however, as a invortible sign and pate being always considered the sure teken is a rise t

ministerial power."

-The crown jewels of France consist in part of objects which have no aristic value, and of her els which are classed as "objects of art." or which last some historical associations. The latter comprise a co petion of foreign orders conferred on French soverer a and valued at \$40,000; a watch presented to Louis 317 by the Dey of Alziers, values at \$600; the dramond brow \$15,000, and a swort with the hill mounted in diaand a very fine specimen or French jewelry, valued \$50,000. These articles are to be retained for the Al Gallery in the Louvic. The celebrated diament's which was at one time valued at from \$100,000 to \$ is also to be kept, it being toubited whether it would jetch more than £25,000 or £80,000. The f diamonds and precious stones, which are worth \$ Most of the jewels were geset for the Pospers English had seen wormat one of the theatres, determined to be Sectiontie Empress wore it only once is above

mated to be worth £15.000 - From some correspondence between the abbe Burthelemy, who, is the latter partcenth century, was a curatic in the King Litappear that the Abby munipoted the maci the practical application such ty years also end elegtric felegraph; rest to the country to Nove de Defficial. letter which she had been ease time by an has been errored by some information of physics. The passage is sufficiently remained worth quotien: "We are told that it will the tenth hand and which are both magnetic in degree, and much the heads of one, 40 other will ollow the same direction & to We want move the vanile, and your sevent might be a man ned by resting the many

did not put much tails in her places. genius; for in her rep's she satisfally shares and swould no doubs "be a very convenient the energy of